

# Lone Jack Lake Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Plan  
FY 2017-2026



*Paul Jensen*

Wildlife Division Chief

*4/4/16*

Date

## Lone Jack Lake Conservation Area Approval Page

### PLANNING TEAM

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Bob Mattucks, Fisheries Management Biologist

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Larry Rizzo, Natural History Biologist

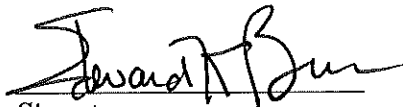
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### KANSAS CITY REGION

RCT Chair

  
Signature

18 March 2016  
Date

### WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Chief

  
Signature

3/29/16  
Date

## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Lone Jack Lake Conservation Area, # 8234
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1983
- **Acreage:** 295 acres
- **County:** Jackson
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**

### A. Strategic Direction

Lone Jack Lake Conservation Area (CA) is managed to conserve and enhance wildlife, grassland, woodland, and aquatic resources with an emphasis on grassland and woodland species and compatible recreational and educational opportunities. The area provides additional fishing opportunities in Jackson County.

### B. Desired Future Conditions

The desired future condition of Lone Jack Lake CA is healthy woodland, aquatic and grassland communities that include a diversity of habitat complexes along with annual vegetation fields with a reduced amount of invasive species.

### C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

### I. Special Considerations

A. **Priority Areas:** None

B. **Natural Areas:** None

### II. Important Natural Features and Resources

A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.

B. **Caves:** None

C. **Springs:** None

D. **Other:** Occurs in the Scarped Osage Plains Jackson County Prairie/Woodland Scarped Plain Landtype Association. This landtype consists of broad gently rolling uplands that give way to limestone valleys with up to 200 feet of local relief. Historically, the area contained prairie-covered uplands that graded into oak savanna, and then into unique woodlands dominated by chinquapin and bur oaks in the scarped areas. Some limestone glades were present. (Nigh & Schroeder, 2002).

### III. Existing Infrastructure

- 1 parking lot (Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible)
- 1 fishing jetty/platform (ADA accessible)
- 2 parking lots
- 1 fishing jetty
- 1 boat ramp to Lone Jack Lake
- Lake dam, outlet and emergency spillway
- 0.5 miles of asphalt road and parking area
- 1 fishing lake (35 acres)
- 1 fishing pond (less than 1 acre)
- 2 fishless ponds (less than 1 acre)

### IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

**A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None

**B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

**C. Easements:** Northwest Central Pipeline Corporation pipeline easement (Figure 2)

**D. Cultural Resources Findings:** Yes, records kept with the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) Environmental Compliance Specialist. Managers should follow Best Management Practices for Cultural Resources found in the Department's Resource Policy Manual.

**E. Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** None observed.

**F. Endangered Species:** None observed.

**G. Boundary Issues:** None

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Woodland management: Lone Jack Lake CA contains approximately 125 acres of woodland. Woodland management will be directed at maintaining a healthy natural community for wildlife habitat and recreational use. Management activities should occur in the northern portion of the area where better quality habitat and management opportunities exist.

Open land management: Prior to Department ownership, the area contained heavily grazed lands on steeper portions of the area and crop and hay fields on level areas. Today

the area contains approximately 133 acres of open lands, which are old-field, prairie plantings and open fields.

The northern woodlands on Lone Jack Lake CA can be separated into two general stands, divided by the pipeline easement:

- 1) Northwestern stand: Past management activities in this stand include woodland thinning and prescribed fire. High quality wildlife habitat consists of large diameter chinkapin oak, northern red oak, pin oak, post oak, walnut, persimmon, Kentucky coffeetree, green ash, hackberry, scattered hedge and other species.
- 2) Northeastern stand: A younger stand with trees of smaller diameter than the northwest stand. The stand consists of the same general species composition as the northwestern stand, and contains some large diameter bur and chinkapin oak trees.

#### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Permittee farmers produce agricultural crops on 35 acres (Figure 4) to help in the eradication of invasive Johnson grass. Cropping also supplements natural food and provides cover to attract wildlife. This creates better hunting and viewing opportunities for area users. A crop rotation is used to reverse succession. It provides idle areas for ground nesting birds, food production in weeds (such as foxtail and ragweed) and insects to serve as food for a variety of birds.
- 2) Warm-season grass and forbs have been planted on 14 acres (Figure 4). They provide better species diversity and structure, nesting opportunities and early successional vegetation for a wide variety of species. The remaining open lands are old field areas. Recent management on these open lands included the use of prescribed burns, mechanical disturbance and herbicide application. Management efforts have been directed at improving the quality of the grasslands and old fields by keeping invading woody vegetation and fescue in check.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain healthy trees and woodlands with management emphasis on wildlife habitat.

**Strategy 1:** Monitor woodlands for invasive exotic vegetation, diseases and insects. Suppress any infestations that may develop. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Retain and protect existing den trees. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Strategy 3:** Thin the northwest stand favoring hard mast-producing species. Use small group openings in areas where poor canopy species composition occurs to stimulate grasses and forbs. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Strategy 4:** Use methods to stimulate groundcover and reduce woody competition in the understory. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Management Objective 2:** Provide food and cover for wildlife and maintain early successional vegetation.

**Strategy 1:** Provide supplemental food through crop and idle field rotation. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 2:** Manage prairie plantings and old fields using appropriate methods to maintain early successional habitat. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 3:** Eradicate any known infestations of sericea lespedeza, fescue and Johnson grass. Monitor area for new infestations and for other invasive exotic species. Suppress any infestations that may develop. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 4:** Maintain field borders to create edge habitat. (Wildlife)

## **VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations**

The conservation area contains one 35-acre lake, ephemeral streams, one fishing pond and two fishless ponds (Figure 3).

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) The conservation area includes nearly 0.8 miles of ephemeral streams; one was dammed to create the 35-acre fishing lake. The streams should be monitored because land uses in the surrounding area are changing and most of the stream headwaters occur outside of the conservation area.
- 2) The area has two fishless ponds (both less than 1 acre), which are used primarily as wildlife watering holes.
- 3) The small fishing pond (less than 1 acre), called Cave Pond (named after a local family), contains largemouth bass, catfish and bluegill.
- 4) The 35-acre fishing lake is accessed by the paved boat ramp, located at the main parking area. There are also two fishing jetties that are adjacent to the main parking lot; one is paved and is ADA-accessible; the other is graveled. The lake receives a lot of fishing pressure due to its proximity to the Kansas City metropolitan area. The lake contains populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, green sunfish, crappie and channel catfish.

**Management Objective 1:** Monitor ephemeral streams and their riparian corridors.

**Strategy 1:** Monitor and mitigate current field road/fireline use in the riparian corridor along the ephemeral streams. (Fisheries, Design and Development, Wildlife)

**Strategy 2:** Monitor potential impacts caused by increased runoff due to changing land cover within the watershed. (Fisheries)

**Management Objective 2:** Maintain two fishless ponds.

**Strategy 1:** Monitor ponds for invasive exotic species. Suppress any infestations that may develop. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 2:** Provide suitable habitat for amphibians and reptiles in ponds with no fisheries management potential. (Fisheries, Wildlife)

**Strategy 3:** Monitor and facilitate the dam maintenance according to Department maintenance guidelines. (Fisheries, Design and Development, Wildlife)

**Management Objective 3:** Maintain one fishing pond (Cave Pond).

**Strategy 1:** Monitor pond for invasive exotic species. Suppress any infestations that may develop. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 2:** Monitor fish population and adjust regulations and stockings as needed. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 3:** Monitor and facilitate the dam maintenance according to Department maintenance guidelines. (Fisheries, Design and Development, Wildlife)

**Management Objective 4:** Maintain a 35-acre fishing lake (Lone Jack Lake).

**Strategy 1:** Monitor the lake for native and invasive exotic species. Manage native plants, as needed, and suppress any invasive exotic species infestations that may develop. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 2:** Monitor and facilitate the dam maintenance according to Department maintenance guidelines. (Fisheries, Design and Development, Wildlife)

**Strategy 3:** Monitor fish population and adjust regulations and stockings as needed. (Fisheries)

**VII. Public Use Management Considerations**

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Located just outside the greater Kansas City Area, the conservation area is open to archery-only deer hunting and shotgun hunting (single projectile firearms prohibited) for other species. The area offers a place close-to-home to hunt deer and turkey for many residents in the Kansas City metro area.
- 2) Due to its proximity to the City of Lone Jack and the Kansas City metropolitan area, the area offers outdoor educational opportunities for nearby schools and youth groups.
- 3) The conservation area is also located near agricultural lands, small farms (5 to 10 acres) and housing developments.

**Management Objective 1:** Provide public hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.

**Strategy 1:** Conduct annual management activities that will provide habitat for a diversity of species. (Wildlife)

**Management Objective 2:** Improve educational and interpretive opportunities at the conservation area.

**Strategy 1:** Communicate the area's recreational opportunities and outdoor educational opportunities to school groups, scouts and the public (e.g., using brochures, Missouri Atlas database, etc.). (Outreach & Education)

**Strategy 2:** Provide outdoor educational opportunities (e.g., workshops) for school classes, scout groups or youth groups. (Outreach & Education)

**Management Objective 3:** Facilitate a good working relationship with neighboring land owners.

**Strategy 1:** Work with neighbors to minimize any boundary or trespass issues, or the occurrence of illegal activities on the conservation area. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 2:** Promote habitat management on neighboring landowner properties. (Private Land Services)

## **VIII. Administrative Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 2) Acquisition of land

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines. (Wildlife, Design and Development )

**Strategy 2:** Follow dam maintenance according to Department maintenance guidelines. (Wildlife, Fisheries, Design and Development)

### **Lands Proposed for Acquisition:**

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.





## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

Lone Jack Lake Conservation Area is located in southeastern Jackson County, 1 mile northwest of the City of Lone Jack on Brown Road.

The area is located in a region rich in Civil War history. The Battle of Lone Jack was fought Aug. 16, 1862, within the city limits of Lone Jack.

The Department purchased this 292-acre tract in 1983 to develop a lake site and provide additional fishing waters in Jackson County. A dam was constructed in 1985 and impounds 35 acres of water. Fingerling largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish were stocked and the lake was opened to the public for fishing in 1989.

Infrastructure around the lake includes a concrete boat launching ramp and two fishing jetties (one is ADA accessible). Both the entrance road and the primary parking lot are paved with asphalt.

Woodlands, open fields, and native grasses are managed to provide year-round food and cover for a variety of game and non-game wildlife species. Haying and controlled burns are used to maintain plant diversity in open areas. Habitat plantings include native trees, shrubs and grasses. A variety of waterfowl use the area for nesting and wintering. The area also supports populations of deer, wild turkey, quail, rabbits and squirrels.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Woodland	125		42
Old field/grasslands	84		29
Impounded water	37		13
Cropland	35		12
Prairie plantings	14		4
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>		<b>100</b>
Ephemeral stream frontage		4,066	

**Public Input Summary:**

The draft Lone Jack Lake Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period May 1–31, 2015. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from 35 respondents (Appendix A). The Lone Jack Lake Conservation Area Planning Team carefully reviewed and considered these ideas as they finalized this document. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they were incorporated or why they were not, can be found below. Rather than respond to each individual comment, comments are grouped into general themes and are addressed collectively.

Department responses to themes and issues identified through Lone Jack Lake Conservation Area public comment period

**Terrestrial Resource Management**

**Suggests planting winter wheat or soybeans to attract more deer and turkey.**

The Missouri Department of Conservation manages agricultural fields on the area by utilizing a permittee farmer that plants crops. Our agricultural work is designed to provide idle (no crop) fields in a rotation which produces food, cover, and habitat for a variety of species.

**Suggests controlling woody overgrowth in old field areas to benefit wildlife.**

Area staff have been mechanically removing woody encroachment, using prescribed burning and herbicide treatments to set back succession and create varying habitats on the area in a rotation over the years. We will continue to implement these management activities on the area.

**Aquatic Resource Management**

**Suggests working to increase average size of largemouth bass in Lone Jack Lake. Suggests implementing a slot limit.**

Current sampling information indicates that Lone Jack has a well-balanced size distribution with in the bass population. Implementing a slot limit would have a detrimental effect. We sample on a regular basis and collect bass, bluegill, redear sunfish and crappie to make sure we have the proper balance of fish populations and adjust regulations as needed.

**Suggests more intense stocking of bass and crappie.**

As a rule bass, crappie and other sunfish populations once established reproduce enough to maintain their population levels to match what the lake can support. As noted above, we do sample on a regular basis and can make management changes if needed. Current sampling information points to a well-balanced, healthy fish population.

**Supports controlling milfoil on a regular basis.**

Spot treatments of herbicide are used annually to control problem vegetation sites.

**Suggests dredging far south end of lake.**

Shallow water habitats are just as important as deep water habitats in the ecology of a lake system. Shallow water provides nursery areas for young fish and spawning and feeding areas for the adults. Overall Lone Jack Lake is considered in very good condition with acceptable average water depth.

**Public Use Management**

**Suggests allowing horseback riding.**

**Opposes allowing horseback riding on area.**

Currently, Lone Jack Lake CA is not one of the areas that allow horseback riding opportunities. Lone Jack Lake CA is a small area with only 295 acres. It gets a lot of public use with hunting and fishing being the main recreational pursuits. Woodland and grassland soils along with steep terrain are fragile in nature. Developing horseback riding trails would open the soil to erosion issues impacting those habitats and also the water quality in the lake and nearby streams. At this time, we are currently looking for ways to maintain existing trails and other infrastructure more efficiently on all Department lands, including the 15 miles of maintained multi-use trails on the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area which are open to horseback riding and are nearby.

Horseback riding trails close to Lonejack Lake CA (and distance away from Lone Jack Lake CA):

Blue and Gray park, Jacksons Co. Parks- .1 miles

James A. Reed MWA, MDC -10 miles

Monkey Mountain, Jackson Co. Parks-12 miles

Landahl Park, Jackson Co. Parks- 16 miles

Longview Lake, Jackson Co. Parks- 19 miles

Knob Noster State Park, MDNR- 40 miles

Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Parks- 52 miles

**Suggests improved horse camping sites. Willing to assist with trail development and maintenance.**

The horse camping site is not part of the Lone Jack Lake CA. If you have suggestions about the horse camping facility, it is part of Jackson County's Blue and Gray Park.

**Suggests mowing path around Cave Pond to allow better fishing access. Suggests utilizing volunteers or community service workers if needed to keep mowed.**

Currently, there is no maintained trail to this pond. We do remove portions of brush on the area while conducting wildlife habitat management activities. We will continue this process annually on different portions of the area for wildlife management needs. At this time, we are currently looking for ways to maintain existing trails and other infrastructure more efficiently on all Department lands. We do evaluate opportunities to expand infrastructure when and where applicable.

**Suggests mowing path to dam and maintaining grass heights between dam and ADA jetty.**

After reviewing this comment, area staff is now mowing the access pathway to the dam closer to the lake to provide better fishing opportunity through the spillway.

**Suggests continuing to mow southern access trail 2-3 weeks prior to archery season.**

The Lone Jack Lake CA does not have any designated trails. What you are referring to is a fire line mowed occasionally when a prescribed burn is planned. Since it is not a designated trail and mowed only when needed, timing of mowing might be anytime of the year.

**Suggests developing south fishing jetty similar to the ADA jetty or at a minimum, placing concrete bollards to block vehicles from accessing jetty.**

Both fishing jetties provide opportunities for the public to fish with one being ADA accessible. Both jetties have issues with people ignoring signs and barriers to block vehicle access to the jetties. We continually have had these signs and barriers vandalized and illegally removed and we frequently repair this damage. Our conservation agents have ticketed individuals that disobey the rules on accessing the jetties with vehicles and for open fires.

**Administrative Considerations**

**Suggests adding permanent restroom facilities. Suggests instillation of low maintenance toilets.**

Lone Jack Lake CA has had a restroom facility in the past. It was vandalized to the point that it was totally rebuilt. It was again vandalized to the point it was necessary to demolish it. We do evaluate opportunities to expand infrastructure when and where applicable. At this time, placing another restroom facility on the area is not being pursued.

**Suggests a higher priority for litter control.**

Area staff visits the area twice per month and weekly during heavily used time periods to pick up trash, post bulletin boards, replace signs and mow. We also have community service personnel assigned to pick up trash. Individuals are responsible to remove their litter from the area or be ticketed.

**Suggests repairing or replacing some of area signs.**

Department staff replaces area signs as needed throughout the year. The signs and bulletin boards can be fine one day and unfortunately, vandalized the next.

**Supports acquiring additional adjacent land.**

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers or through donations. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

**Supports partnering with school groups and Scouting groups on service projects.**

The Department promotes utilization of the area by Kansas City area schools and universities for outdoor education and fishing opportunities. The Special Use Permit process allows us to review various activities and grant access for groups like the scouting groups to participate in certain activities.

**References:**

Nigh, T. A., & Schroeder, W. A. (2002). *Atlas of Missouri ecoregions*. Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

**Maps:**

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

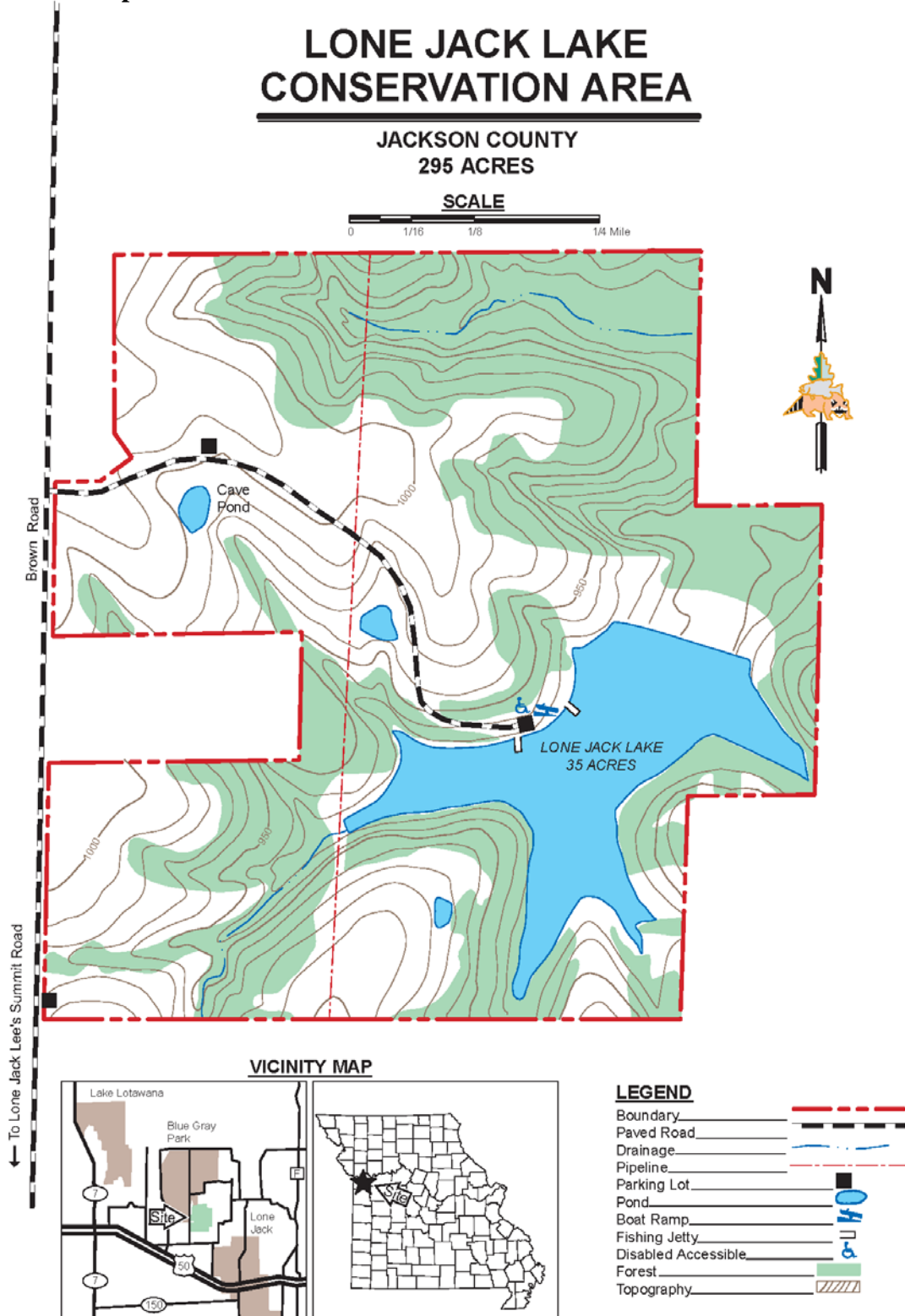
Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map

**Additional Appendices:**

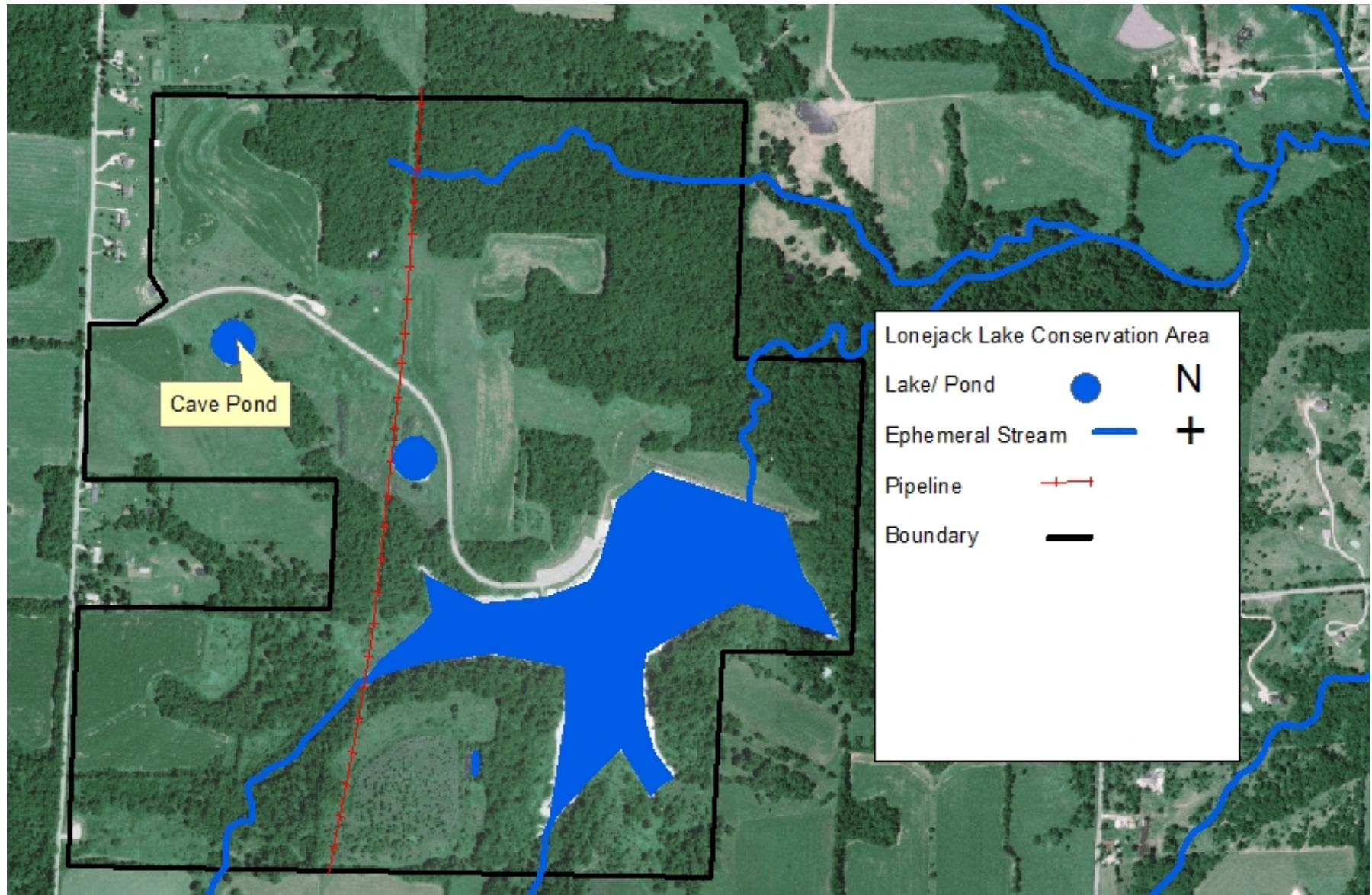
Appendix A: Lone Jack Lake Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

**Figure 1: Area Map**



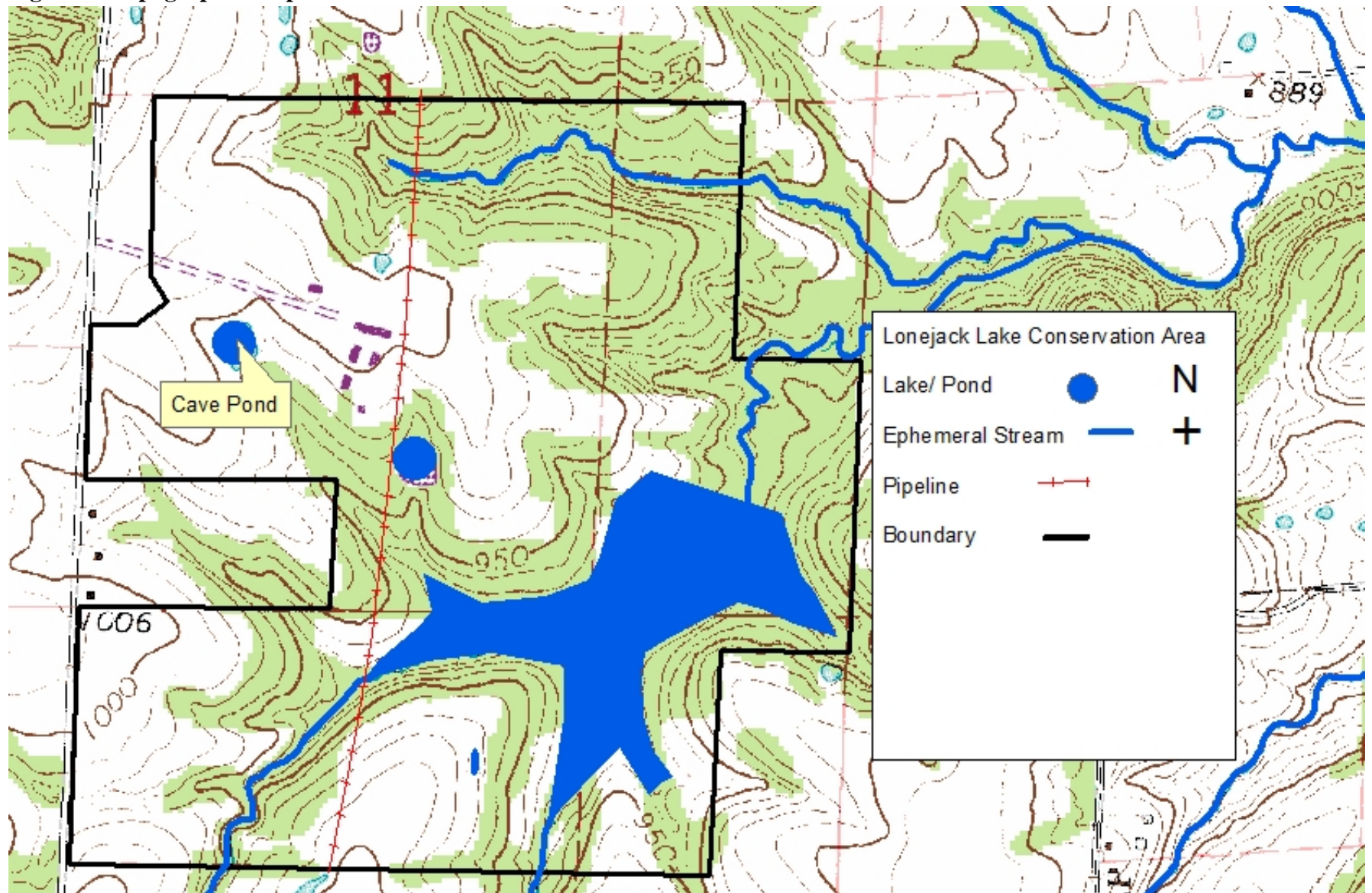


**Figure 2: Aerial Map**



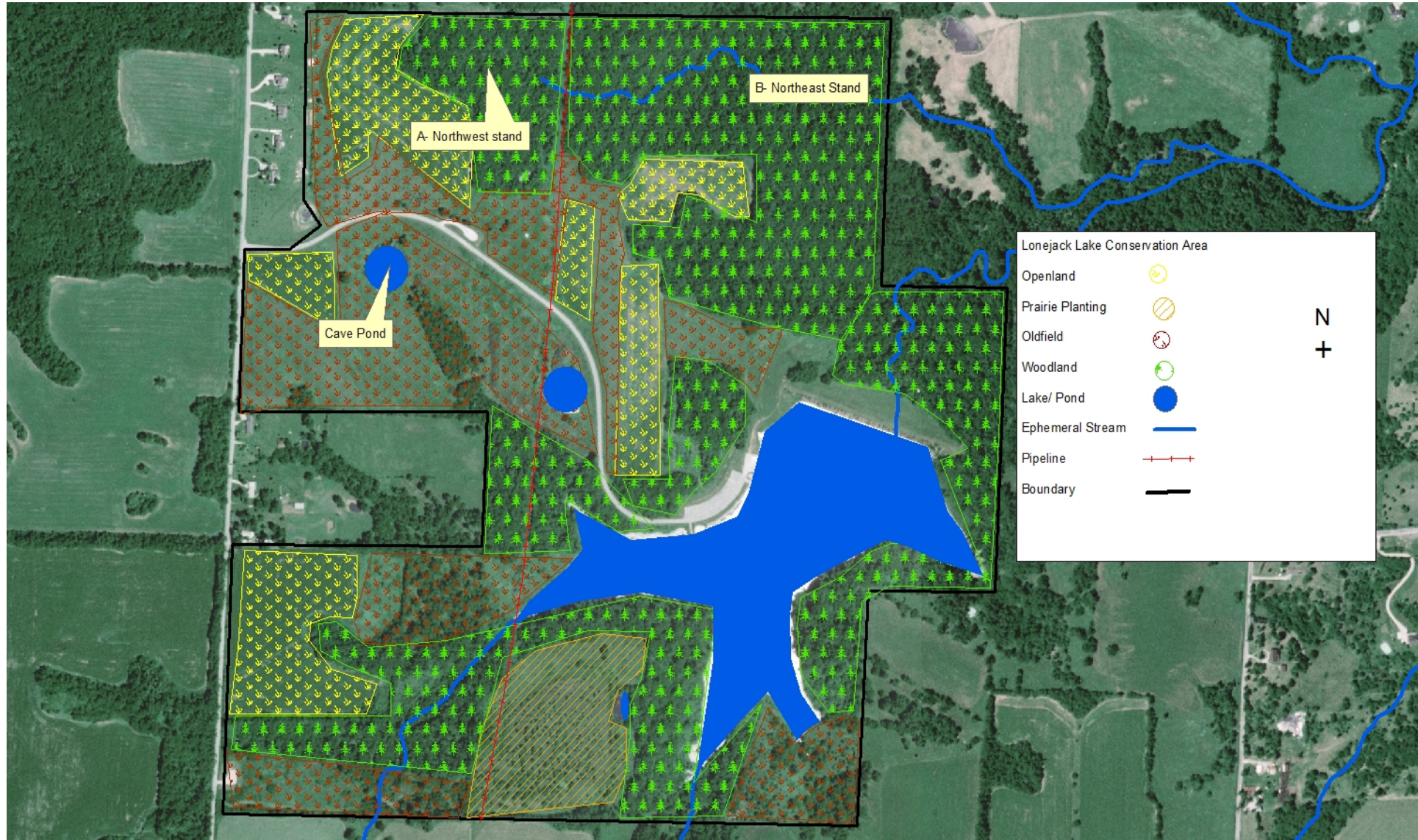


**Figure 3: Topographic Map**





**Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map with Easement**



## Appendix A: Lone Jack Lake Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (May 1-31, 2015):

I would like to see a plan to increase the average size of largemouth bass in the main lake. I fished there occasionally from the mid-1990s until recently and somewhere near 90% of the bass I caught were 6-10" in length.

I would also like to see better access to Cave Pond. I have fished it before and it is challenging to get up to reach the pond. A mowed path to and around the lake would greatly increase its fishability and would encourage more people to use it. If funds are not available to keep it mowed then maybe the MDC could suggest it as a Boy Scout work day project or it could be a community service project for those sentence to do community service in court. I'd mow it myself if that was an option.

First let me say that I've been coming to LJ CA for about 18 years now and have seen positive and negative changes. A few years back I was VERY impressed with the response from the MDC to a suggestion I had about re-stripping the parking lot in front of the boat ramp so that people would not park there. Thank you.

1) The ADA jetty is fantastic and I would suggest doing the same with the south jetty. This would add more opportunities for people with disabilities to fish and, more importantly, it would keep people from driving and parking on the jetty. At the very minimum, please place concrete bollards which would block vehicles from accessing the jetty.

2) I see it is in the proposal, but I will reiterate that control of millfoin in the lake needs to take place on a regular basis. The lake is very clear which allows for this invasive grass to grow rampant during the heat of the summer.

3) Litter control should be a higher priority. Due to the remote location, it is easy for irresponsible people dump their trash here. This is not only unsightly but also potentially harmful to the wildlife.

4) Winter wheat or soybeans should be considered as a crop planting to attract more deer and turkey. The area around the CA is ripe with both but more plentiful food can be found on the Mormon land to the southwest and on the Jackson Co. park land to the west.

5) Replacement or repairs need to be made to some of the signage on the area. Unfortunately some people don't know how to respect property.

6) It would be wonderful if the MDC could acquire some of the Jackson Co. parks and Mormon land immediately to the west and southwest of the current area. These areas are primarily croplands and forested areas that go unused. This would NOT include the group camping area that is frequently utilized by Scout groups or the equestrian areas to the north and northwest.

7) A slot limit needs to be placed on largemouth bass in the area. There is an over abundance of 10"-14" bass and a quite a few less than 15"+.

8) Maintaining a clear cut path to the dam would be very beneficial to those fishermen who would like to fish that area. As well, maintaining the grass heights between the dam and the north ADA jetty would do the same.

9) Consideration should be given to dredging the far south end of the lake due to ongoing silt in over the years. At this time, the south cove averages 3'-4' deep in the last 1/3.

8) It is mentioned that more emphasis should be placed on educating school and Scout groups about the area. Some of the above mentioned items could be accomplished/completed with the assistance of these groups with things such as service projects or Eagle Scout projects. If necessary, I could be a point of contact to the BSA for this.

This property would provide additional horseback riding opportunities in this area. The Blue and Gray Park is often crowded and the trails suffer from overuse. This would be an excellent place to enjoy a quiet ride. Thank you.

Would love to see improved sites for horse camping and trail riding. Thanks.

I would like to see horse back riding in the conservation area on designated trails. Other areas allow this like James A Reed. Thank you PS I love riding in Blue and Grey Park and plan to camp/ride there about May 15.

Would be nice to have more trail riding around Blue Grey Park. And it would generate more people the Lake is Beautiful to ride to and even more to ride around. Would also Benifit to run Water to the Campsites. Would Generate more income if was a Nice place to Camp., WOULD NOT HAVE TO DRIVE 2 hrs away & give other Parks my money.

I board my horse at Sitter Downs which adjoins the conservation area. We would love to develop and help maintain trails for horse back riding in the area.

Please open this up to horse back riding.

I enjoy Lone Jack Lake CA. It is a great place to fish, canoe, exercise my retriever dog, and forage for wild edibles. But I would really like to see the addition of an equestrian trail/trails. I ride my horse often at Blue and Gray Park across Brown Road, and I would love to be able to ride my horse around the lake.

As of now, it is unclear whether horseback riding is permitted at LJLCA. I have been told no, not allowed. I have also been told yes, if you stay on the shoulder of the road.

There are many of us who enjoy nature from the back of a horse, so how about accommodating riders? A designated horse trail would be wonderful!

Thank you!

P.S. There are riders who are willing to donate their time and energy to accomplish this, myself included :-)

Open up the area to horseback riders so that people that ride Blue and Grey park could enjoy the Lone Jack lake area.

Please open up this area to horse use.

Thank you!

I think it would be wonderful if we were allowed to ride our horses there. Those of us who board at Sitter Downs are responsible and eco friendly. We pick up trash left behind by others and always do our best not to disturb the natural beauty of the park.

I would like an Equestrian/Hiking trail around the lake with camping sites, possibly water/electric hook ups at it and the lower campground. Also, replace the permant bathrooms. The portal toilets are often vandalized, plus they are too small and smell terrible, the bigger stone/concrete restrooms were cooler and more convenient.

As you are aware, Blue & Gray Equine Park is across the road from LJConservation area. B&G is over 1700 acres.

We would like to ask that the conservation area allow horseback riding.

We have made tremendous improvements (all volunteer) at B&G Equine Park. We have added routes, trail signs, picnic tables, hitching posts, maps, nets for trash and there are many neighbors, friends of the park, and B&G trail riders that maintain the park. The trash is picked up and trails are pruned.

We could do the same for the LJConservation area; we would limit how many trails are created, a loop around the lake and a few in the woods that are north of the lake. It could be done, labor intensive and put on the tick spray, but it would definitely enhance the conservation area plus the hunters' experience as well. Another thought is to allow primitive camping at the lake.

Can you imagine waking up to the morning fog over the lake?

We have Blue & Gray Park Cleanup, which the county has allowed us to use 4-wheelers and chainsaws in order to clear trees/brush, etc from the trails. Many people walk around the parameter of the park to pick up the cans, bottles, plastics & such in the ditch. We have flagged many fences in the park as well as taking out old fencing that horses have been caught in.

I am the administrator of the Blue and Gray Trail Riders facebook page and there is a document that contains information about the maps/routes, trail signs, picnic areas and such for people to



download. It is periodically updated.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/185449843275/>

We know that shotgun season is permitted at LJConservation, however, no horseback riding is allowed. Lead Mine Conservation area allows horseback riding and I am assuming that they also allow hunting. Our question is why does LJConservation not allow horseback riding?

Feel free to contact me direct, \*\*\*\*\*@aol.com or send a request to join the fun at Blue and Gray Trail Riders facebook page.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to comment.

The Blue and Gray Trail Riders

Friends of the Park

Neighbors of the Park

I board my horse at Sitter Downs located on Drinkwater across from the Blue and Gray Park. It would be such an asset to the Blue and Gray park to allow riding trails on the Lone Jack Lake area. As riders we constantly clean up trash left carelessly by other riders and keep the trails natural and cleared. I hope that the Lone Jack Lake will open up as additional space for us to ride. Thanks

This would be great to open this up to equine riding and camping with elec water pens.

Just adding my opinion to the Lone Jack management plan. I know there is a lot of interest and pressure to open the conservation area to horse back riding but I don't think that would be a beneficial activity for that particular CA. I am a horseback rider, a hunter, and fisherman. The horsemen in that area already have a large park to ride and I think it would encroach upon the ability of hunters and wildlife to enjoy a more peaceful and natural environment if horse riding was allowed in that area.

The group of riders near Lone Jack are not interested in following typical MDC area rules. They believe, and have plans, to blaze trails where they please, cut down trees, utilize ATVs, place picnic tables and fire pits, and drill hitch rails to trees. It amazes me that the county parks department allows private citizens to engage in such activities and I feel that because this has been the standard in that area the Department of Conservation would not be able to employ it's standard area rules without numerous instances of damage and removal of natural habitat. I believe the department would have to increase control efforts and personnel to enforce regulations and increased maintenance issues. Allowing horseback riding at this particular area is not necessary because there is currently a balance of hunting, nature, and equine access in this county and I believe the department's efforts and finances could be better utilized in another part of the state.

as a env. sci. grad , father and boy scout dad, I enjoy and appreciate what our Cons. Dept. had done and does. The info provided was concise and easy to peruse.

If I had any recommendations, they would be: (1.) install restrooms of the type often used at remote parks, those which only require chemical servicing by the staff and low maintenance and (2.) the more intense stocking of fish- particularly crappie and bass; it's location saves long trips to lakes w/ those species and I think would draw more users w/ more intense fishing populations.

We fish in Lone Jack Lake several times a year.

Our favorite recreation is horseback riding individually or with a group. Retha and George Sitter have done a lot to improve the trails around Blue and Gray and would be involved in Lone Jack project too. They are building a good base of volunteers for trail upkeep.

Trail riding gives me a way to enjoy nature at close range without infringing on private property. Most riders are able to work with bike riders when they are aware of the need for safety around horses. ATVs and horses don't mix but a separate area is feasible.

Let's enjoy all the conservation areas and keep them maintained for the future.

Please note that I have been using the Lone Jack Conservation Area (LJCA) since it first opened. I live in Lee's Summit so the LJCA proximity is very convenient. Sometimes I fish from the bank and other times I bring my small two-man boat, which only has a trolling motor. The fishing is just average, because as noted within the above report, the LJCA receives a lot of pressure. However, it's still nice to just get out and enjoy the outdoors. With that said there is still one item that is sorely missing from the above noted "existing infrastructure." That one item is a "RESTROOM." When LJCA first opened, there was very nice cinder block restroom on the premises. If I remember correctly, the restroom was the recipient of a few bullet holes and was later set on fire. Yes, that was a really stupid act by few idiots, but that was also well over 20 years ago. The MDC should not indefinitely punish "fisherman," both young and old, for something that happened so long ago. It seems the MDC expects everyone to just go in the woods. I'm sorry, but that should not be the MDC solution. Hopefully, the MDC will add a restroom to the LJCA "management plan." A porta potty would be just fine. Without a restroom, the MDC is sending a message that says..."enjoy the area, but don't stay very long."

Please continue to maintain (Mow) the S-SE, border fire line / access trail on a annual basis at least 2-3 weeks prior to the opening day of archery deer season so it can be much more easier to retrieve game from that side of the property. Thank you

Would love to see some equestrian trails, and a trailhead with some campsites. I don't see too many CA's that have equestrian trails, trailheads or camping. Seems like us horse people are losing out! Please consider it. I promise I for one will respect the wildlife, their habitat and work to preserve all that while we also enjoy it from our saddles. For the most part, us horsey people are good folk. It's not all about hunting and fishing!!  
Think about it!

We really need showers, electrical setups. It is a great park and this really will bring more equine riders. More revenues for the county
This would be enjoyed by many equestrian riders
Any expansion in this area for equestrian use will a huge boom for equestrians coming from a long way away to ride in this area. Plus a boost for the economy in the immediate area.
We r allowed to ride in a lot of conservation areas in Missouri and it would be wonderful to be able to ride around a lake close to home.
It would be nice to be able to enjoy a view of a lake as we ride on beautiful days.
Much of the "oldfield" area is now overgrown with very thick woody low brush and is not suitable for hunting although the populations of rabbit and raccoon have increased to nuisance levels here. This is particularly true of the open area immediately south of the paved road from Brown Rd to the parking lot at Lone Jack Lake. Control of the dense woody overgrowth in this area is needed. Possibly chipping and spraying or burning would do much to help manage the wildlife populations here and improve hunting.
i am a hunter and a horseback rider and I think it would be a great idea to open this up for horse trails during the off season for hunting.  Everyone can work together on this project .
It would be nice to add horse trails with this being so close to Blue and Gray Park.
I think that lone jack lake should be opened up to horseback riding it is right across the road from Blue and Grey park and there is a group of riders that work really hard to keep B&G clean so it wouldn't be so costly for the state to maintain.
I frequently ride my horses at Blue and Grey and wish this area would also be opened up for riding.
It would be wise to open this area up to horse trail riders giving people more access to the hidden beauties of Missouri and our parks.
Thank you for your fine work in maintaining this area and keeping it as close to nature as you do! I was wondering if the area around the lake could also be tied into Blue & Gray Park for equine trails?
Please support the local friends by keeping Blue and Gray equestrian friendly.